



## **Town of Warren, Rhode Island**

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# **Minutes of the Economic Development Board**

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on July 19, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, located at 514 Main Street. Board Members present included Sara Volino, Paula Silva, Davison Bolster, Karen Dionne, Brandt Heckert, Linda Brunini, and Diane Horton. Kristin MacDonald was present at the meeting to serve as Secretary to the EDB. Ex Officio member Caroline Wells was not present. Also present at the meeting was Lisa Raiola from Hope and Main; Nate Berg and Katie Egan were present to discuss the Narragansett Bay Seafood Co-op. Town Council members David Frerichs and Cathy Tattrie were also present at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting on June 24, 2010**

The minutes from the regular meeting held on June 24, 2010 were reviewed by the members via email. Mr. Bolster stated that the correct spelling of Mr. Berg's (Narragansett Seafood Co-op) first name is "Nate" as opposed to "Nat"; the correction was noted. A motion was made by Ms. Horton to accept the minutes, Ms. Silva seconded the motion, and all members were in favor.

### **2. Introduction to Narragansett Seafood Co-op**

Nate Berg and Katie Egan were present to discuss the newly formed Narragansett Bay Seafood Co-op. The Board discussed the requirements far as the size, refrigeration, and health regulations required by seafood processing facilities, as well as the licensing required by the state and the regulations required to market fresh shellfish and seafood. The possibility of incorporating the Narragansett Seafood Co-op into the Kitchen Incubator, either as space for processing facility or as retail facility, was also a consideration. Ms. Raiola stated that the Narragansett Seafood Co-op would work well with the model for the Kitchen Incubator. Ms. Silva also suggested that the property owned by Mr. Al Bilideau on the town wharf as a potential location for a processing facility. The Board thanked Mr. Berg and Ms. Egan for attending, asked them to keep the Board posted on their progress, and stated that they would be willing to work with them to make their endeavor a successful addition to the town of Warren.

### **3. Presentation and discussion with Lisa Raiola (Hope and Main)**

Lisa Raiola was present to discuss the progress to date of the Kitchen Incubator project. Currently Hope and Main is in the process of having their attorneys draft a Lease Agreement for the Main Street School property. The Board discussed economic strategies for developing the project, including historic tax credits and zoning issues, as well as potential funding and donation opportunities. Ms. Raiola was discussed grant funding from the USDA, which is interested in funding local sustainable food systems. Ms. Raiola asked the EDB to answer the question about how this project is important to Warren and how it will change the local economy. Mr. Frerichs commented on the prominence of valuable and protected farmland in Warren and how the presence of a local produce market would benefit local growers. Ms. Raiola asked the Board for suggestions for a “meet and greet” event to benefit the project and generate interest in the community. Opening the school for an “Open House” during the Discover Warren Event in October was one suggestion. The Board agreed to assist Ms. Raiola in organizing events to promote the Kitchen Incubator Project.

### **4. Update from Chair on Meeting with Bristol EDB and Keith Stokes**

Ms. Volino gave a brief report on a meeting she recently attended of the Bristol EDB. She stated that the purpose of the meeting was for Bristol business owners to ask questions and present ideas to Keith Stokes of the Rhode Island EDB. Ms. Volino reported on the need for a better trained work force in Rhode Island, and the overall need for light industrial, educational classroom, and financial service industry space in the state.

### **5. Preliminary Discussion on 2010-2011 Work Plan**

Ms. Brunini discussed updating the EDB 2010-2011 Work Plan in order to better define future goals and to eliminate outdated and inactive items. The Board agreed to send Ms. Brunini active items and future items for the Work Plan by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Ms. Brunini, Mr. Bolster, and Ms. Volino agreed to form a committee to synthesize the items gathered from the Board. Ms. MacDonald volunteered to organize the information in an Excel document. Mr. Frerichs stated that Town Council will need to see the 2010-2011 EDB Work Plan; however, Town Council will not need to formally approve the plan.

### **6. Discussion and action on Liberty Street School**

The Board discussed the proposed RFI (Request for Information) for the Liberty Street School. Ms. Horton requested a completed copy of the document from Town Manager Richard Paduch when it is ready to be published. The Board questioned why Town Planner Caroline Wells was not more involved in constructing the RFI; Ms. Tattrie stated that Town Council had requested Mr. Paduch to write the document. Mr. Frerichs said that he would inquire with Mr. Paduch regarding his progress with the RFI. Ms. Wells will be available on Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am to tour the Liberty Street School.

## **7. Discussion and Action on Warren Waterfront Plan**

The Board discussed the history of the Warren Waterfront Plan and the Warren Waterfront Committee. Ms. Brunini, who discovered that obtaining a copy of the Waterfront Plan was a challenge in itself, questioned why a Committee with a Plan that represented such a large investment of time, money, and enthusiasm was disbanded. Mr. Heckert recommended that the Board move forward by reviewing the Waterfront Plan for items that would be pertinent to the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Brunini stated that she would send the Waterfront Plan to Ms. Wells and have the document posted on the Town of Warren website for review.

Given the time, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald

*Minutes submitted by Kristin MacDonald  
August 13, 2010*

